

**CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

Dave McAlister called the open meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Conference Room Under Library. In attendance were Selectmen Dave McAlister, Al Posnanski, and TA Samson. Others Utilizing ZOOM and in person: Ellie Davis, Bob Scott, Karen Wolk, Richard Fox, Chuck Townsend, Tony Tom Oppal, John Bergeron, Tony Arsenal, Tim Foley and two unidentified people.

Motion by Dave McAlister and second by Al Posnanski to approve the minutes of 11/10/2020. Unanimous.

Budget Review

Samson indicated that he is still trying to reduce the size of the proposed budget. The gross budget is now 4,475,161 and the anticipated tax increase is .88% or 7 cents a thousand. This would increase taxes on a \$200,000 home by \$14.

Covid-19

Samson discussed the rapidly increasing number of cases in Canaan. The new cases in the past two weeks equaled all of the prior cases. The state's numbers are not tracking the Mace (Upper Valley Public Safety Coordination Committee) numbers which are supposedly the numbers for each town as provided by the state. The time between infection of person one, the suspicion that person one is infected, the testing of person 1 and the receipt of person one's test results is about 11 days. Of those 11 days, 6 of the days could well result in the infection of five other people. Each of them would have similar delays in testing and similar spread factors. Infection can easily reach hundreds of cases locally. None of these delays are helpful in preventing disease spread. Samson also discussed the types of tests available and their relative reliability.

Samson stated that it is clear that masks and 6 foot social distancing are the only strategies that can be used immediately to reduce spread. Recent releases from the US FDA have stated that there is not only a 75% to 90% prevention of spread from the mask wearer, there is also a 50% to 75% protection for the mask wearer if the mask is a three ply mask with cotton and polyester. Samson indicated that he wanted to provide educational information on the current risks of higher cases and the absolute need to use masks as the only defense to the disease currently. Dave McAlister said that the news that the masks protect the wear was a game changer. Members of the public overwhelmingly asked that the Board adopt a mandatory ordinance. The Board stated that there were no resources available to enforce the ordinance. They questioned why we would pass an ordinance when there was no enforcement. The public said all of the surrounding towns had adopted ordinances. The Board said that most towns were not enforcing the ordinance with the majority of the public. Richard Fox said that he couldn't shop in Canaan since there were so many unmasked customers using the local stores. Samson indicated that he hoped that showing people how dangerous the situation is currently would encourage people to volutarily social distance and use masks. Al Posnanski said that he was

alright with education but that we shouldn't try to scare the public. Samson indicated that he would use an education campaign. The consensus of the Board was to support the education effort.

Other Business

Non-Public

At 5:55 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to enter non-public session for review of litigation, hiring interview and negotiations. McAlister seconded and motion passed unanimously.

At 6:45 PM McAlister moved to exit non-public meeting. Seconded by Posnanski and it was unanimously passed.

At 6:45 PM Selectman Posnanski moved to seal the minutes. McAlister seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

At 6:47 PM Selectman Al Posnanski moved to direct Samson to send a memo to the Police AFSCME Union with proposed language changes in the new 3 year contract. Second by Dave McAlister. Unanimously approved.

At 6:50 PM Selectman Al Posnanski moved to adjourn. Second by Dave McAlister. Unanimously approved.

Scott Borthwick, Chairman

David McAlister

Al Posnanski
Canaan Board of Selectmen